

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An e-mail processing method comprising the steps of:

first identifying whether a received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail based on a header of the received e-mail;

second identifying a data type of each part included in a text of [[a]] the received e-mail, when it is identified in said first identifying step that the received e-mail [[being]] is a multi-part e-mail;

determining whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type;

storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined in said determining step that the part can be processed; and

deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined in said determining step that the part cannot be processed.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

registering data types that can be processed, in advance,

wherein it is determined in said determining step that a part can be processed when the identified data type of the part coincides with a registered data type.

Claims 3-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein a user is notified of a presence of a part that cannot be processed.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that a part cannot be processed, a subsequent process is selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein a data type of a part that can be processed is a text.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein a data type of a part that can be processed is an image.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein identification of a data type is performed by analyzing the received e-mail.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein a data type of a part is identified in said identifying step according to a reference character string specified based on a position of a predetermined character string in the received e-mail.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An e-mail processing apparatus comprising:
multi-part identifying means for identifying whether a received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail based on the header of the received e-mail;

type identification means for identifying a data type of each part included in a text of [[a]] the received e-mail, when it is identified by said multi-part identifying means that the received e-mail [[being]] is a multi-part e-mail;

determination means for determining whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type;

storing means for storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if said determination means determines that the part can be processed; and

deleting means for deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if said determination means determines that the part cannot be processed.

Claim 16 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising storage means for storing data types that can be processed, wherein said determination means determines that a part can be processed when the identified type of the part coincides with a stored data type.

Claims 17-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising notification means for notifying a user of a presence of a part that cannot be processed.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising selection means for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes, when said determination means determines that a part cannot be processed.

Claim 25 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein a data type of a part that can be processed is a text.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein a data type of a part that can be processed is an image.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means identifies a data type by analyzing the received e-mail.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said type identification means identifies a data type of a part according to a reference character string specified based on a position of a predetermined character string in the received e-mail.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing control software for implementing an e-mail process, the control software comprising:

a control program for first identifying whether a received e-mail is a multi-part e-mail based on a header of the received e-mail;

a control program for second identifying a data type of each part included in a text of [[a]] the received e-mail, when it is identified in execution of said control program for first identifying that the received e-mail [[being]] is a multi-part e-mail;

a control program for determining whether each part included in the received e-mail can be processed, by comparing the identified data type of each part with a registered utilizable data type;

a control program for storing a part that can be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined by said control program for determining that the part can be processed; and

a control program for deleting a part that cannot be processed, included in the received e-mail, if it is determined by said control program for determining that the part cannot be processed.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein the control software further comprises:

a control program for reading data types that can be processed, which have been registered in advance in a memory,

wherein it is determined by said control program for determining that a part can be processed when the identified data type of the part coincides with a read data type.

Claims 31-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (previously presented): A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein the control software further comprises a control program for notifying a user of a presence of a part that cannot be processed.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein the control software further comprises a control program for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes, when it has been determined that a part cannot be processed.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein the control program for identifying identifies a data type by analyzing the received e-mail.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A control program according to Claim 29, wherein the control program for identifying identifies a type of a part according to a character string specified based on a position of a predetermined character string in the received e-mail.